



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF MWFPOA , PO Box 77-1896—OCALA, FL 34477

A Time-honored Craft in the Age of Social Media

Robert and Cher Mickelsen moved into MWF about 3 years ago, having fallen in love with the workshop on their Nashua Way property. When their craft had outgrown their home in Mims, Florida, they began looking in the Ocala area. Robert recalls viewing their MWF home for the first time: “We spent about 30 minutes in the house and at least 2 hours in the workshop.” It was the perfect environment for a new flameworking studio, with plenty of storage and space to work, as well as room for a gallery upstairs, where much of their beautiful work is on display.

RAM Glass Studio is truly a family affair. Their son (Kyle), nephew (Ryan), and a close family friend (Christian) are all self-employed and work alongside Robert and Cher in the studio. Together, they are able to offer glass collectors a wide variety in both product and price.



From left to right: Ryan, Robert, and Kyle



The art of glass blowing—or more appropriately in this case, flameworking or lampworking—began more than 2000 years ago and is an art that takes years and years to master. Robert is a Master Lampworker with 45 years of experience. Unlike glass blowing, which starts with a large, very hot piece of molten glass that has to be cooled to blow and shape it, lampworking starts with cold glass that is heated so that it can be worked.

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Upcoming Events

Next Board Meetings

January 9, 2020

February 13, 2020

March 12, 2020

Next Assoc. Meetings

January 16, 2020

March 19, 2020

Minutes are posted on the website after all Board and Association meetings:

www.mwfpoa.com

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ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Hello Neighbors and Happy New Year!

This is the time of year that those of us who live here full time love. The air is crisp, the weather is cool, and the grass is not growing! It is a great time to enjoy a walk outside and enjoy our beautiful neighborhood. I often write about what a great neighborhood we live in. The winding roads bordered by three- or four-board horse fencing keeps our four-legged friends safe. Our fencing gives our neighborhood a certain look, that of an orderly equestrian community in a rural setting. Our fencing speaks volumes about our community. When a board is broken, it breaks the flowing lines of our neighborhood.

As property values increase in western Marion County, especially with the World Equestrian Center at our back door, we should take advantage of making our older community as clean, neat, and presentable as the newer million dollar homes that are just a few miles down the road. So please neighbors, let's keep up the neighborhood and mend those fences, and remember that fences do make good neighbors. Our property values are appreciating here in MWF, and let 's all appreciate our properties.

Leslie Pope-Hall
President MWFPOA

Officers of MWFPOA

President	Leslie Pope-Hall	352-861-3292	BLCTIE@aol.com
Vice-President	Heidi Boynton	253 347-3573	Heidi.boynton8@gmail.com
Secretary	Karen Reade	622-2030	at20146@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Lisa Yanes	291-0509	stokey@cfl.rr.com

Committees

Control	Chair: Elaine Hager Zach Zachary Dale Kennedy	857-4825
Directory	Chair: Toni Kimball	861-4934
Membership	Chair: Herb Albritton	954 260-2233
Newsletter	Chair: Sydney Smith Dorothy Henry	MWFPOAnewsletter@gmail.com
Parties	Chair: Connie Story Sandy Mollberg Dave Kane	369-0809 861-9622 509-7754
Refreshments	Chairs: Janice & Art Eide	861-8883
Sunshine	Chair: Jennie Adams	854-1914
Welcome	Chair: Lee Albritton	954 260-2223

Community Matters

Did you know that you can order a reflective green address marker on our Meadow Wood Farms website?

The Association has a great program in place to uniformly mark addresses and help to minimize if not eliminate addressing problems in the case of an emergency. Improper addressing frustrates emergency responders, but it could be deadly to residents because of the delays that result. Locating your address as soon as possible is the first step in saving lives and property.

We've received outstanding positive feedback on the quality and importance of these address marker signs. If you've seen the signs, you know what a big difference they do make!



The program is very easy to implement, requires minimal effort, and can make a definite, positive impact in our community. This is a voluntary program and is not a fundraiser, as all address markers are sold at cost.

Look under **ER / Address Markers** to download the printable order form.

Sunshine Report

Recent cards were sent to the following individuals :

- ◆ Thinking of you—Sal Cabrera
- ◆ Thinking of You—Les Barker
- ◆ Sympathy—Joanna Gilbert



If you are aware of someone who could benefit from receiving a card, please notify Jennie Adams at 854-1914.

Newsletter Delivery

The Newsletter will be delivered to everyone in MWF who has requested it. Mailing tubes have been attached to your mailbox stand to make these deliveries legal in the eyes of the USPS. If you're not getting one, contact Pat Van Nostrand at vannospa@gmail.com. If you need a tube, contact Ian Reade at at20146@earthlink.net. Please include your contact phone number or email.

Please send or email items to be published to
Sydney Smith
email: mwfpoanewsletter@gmail.com

Send payment for ads to Lisa Yanes
MWFPOA, P.O. Box 771896
Ocala, FL 34477

Meadow Wood Farms Website

www.mwfpoa.com

- ◆ Neighbor to Neighbor Directory: From main page, click on **Neighbor to Neighbor**
- ◆ The newsletter is ALSO available in **color** on our website: From main page, click on **Newsletter**, and then select the month

To join the Meadow Wood Farms email blasts and conversation, send a note to Meadowwoodfarms1@aol.com and ask the site master to add your email address. Please respect the rules... no politics, or religion, or any attachments or offensive material. This site is offered by a private member of the association. It is an extremely useful tool, and we are grateful to that person.

Do you know of a Meadow Wood Farms neighbor in need? The Meadow Wood Farms Angels is a group of anonymous volunteers who are ready to help with those small, one-time projects that our neighbors cannot do by themselves by reason of age, illness, disability, or lack of funds.

To submit a request for assistance, email: MWFAngels@gmail.com or call Jim Bain (352) 615-2572. The Angels will contact you and obtain additional information in order to evaluate the request.



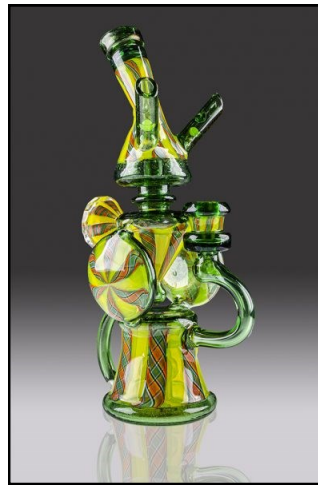
A Time-honored Craft... (continued)



Also unlike glass blowing, which typically requires a team, lampworking is a more accessible medium for individuals. A lampworker manipulates preformed glass rods and tubes of borosilicate glass, using a blow torch to produce incredibly intricate results. And those results can be astounding, as you would see in the Mickelsens' gallery. Intricately beautiful, exceptionally diverse, and some oddly intriguing pieces have attracted a wide variety of buyers over the years.

Robert's original audience sought sculptural, museum-quality artwork for display. However, with the economic downturn and crippling recession in 2007, he needed to alter his production and audience in order to keep his business alive. He shifted to the trending glass pipe movement, a sort of counterculture of glass art. As he explained, the pipes are functional vessels rather than sculptures, much like goblets or vases.

In the recent 5 years, as more and more states have decriminalized marijuana, lampworking to make pipes has become an accepted and much sought after art form. Riding the cannabis wave, the number of lampworkers has grown exponentially. Robert muses that, in the mid-90's, you could probably count the number of recognized flameworkers in the country on your fingers and toes. Today, there are at least 25 in Ocala alone and—as one example of the enormous popularity of this art form—nearly 5,000 flameworkers in Eugene, Oregon.



Advertising and selling products has also changed over the years. When asked about attending art shows and similar venues, Robert pointed to social media as the source of most of his sales. “Things aren’t like they used to be... Where I once had to pay \$5,000 for a back-page ad in a trade magazine, I can now reach tens of thousands of people through Instagram, where I have 82,000 followers.”

With the growth in numbers of flameworkers, there are also new business opportunities in educational workshops. Robert and Kyle both share their expertise during private workshops throughout the year, where they help other artisans with techniques, hand skills, and other technical assistance. A December workshop, “Scratching the Surface,” was devoted to various ways to etch imagery into the surface of glass objects.

Past students provide rave reviews on the RAM Glass Studio website, mickelsenglass.net. Not only do they appreciate the training and undivided attention from a Master; students also receive wonderful hospitality from the family, with accommodations and meals included. Comments almost universally attest to simply a wonderful experience!



Sydney Smith



Line Dancing at Friendship Park!

Line dancing will start up again on **Saturday, January 4 (10 am)** at the park and **7 pm on Wednesday, January 8**. We will continue every Wednesday night and Saturday morning. We’re still looking for new dancers, especially some "brave" men who like to dance. Join us for great exercise and great fun! We also walk through with instructions before each dance, as needed.



**St Johns United Methodist
Church of Cotton Plant**

12390 W Hwy 328, Ocala, FL 34482

*A Place to Call Home, Love God,
Love People, Serve our Community*

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Sunday Worship & Children's Sunday School 10:30 am

Like to Sing...? Come join us.

Choir Practice 9:00 am Sundays/2:30 pm Wednesdays

Family Breakfast Buffet - Sponsored by Men's Club

Saturday January 4 8 am-10 am \$6/ Kids Free

Pancakes, Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Grits, Biscuits'n Gravy, OJ

Youth Fellowship

Grades 5 - 12 meets every Wednesday night at 6 pm

Includes Supper

Soup'n Sandwich Sunday January 12th

Following service \$4 adults, Kids FREE

Benefits summer camperships

Movie Night & Covered Dish Dinner

Friday January 31 at 6 pm

ALL are Welcome!

www.stjohnscp.com

352-237-5777



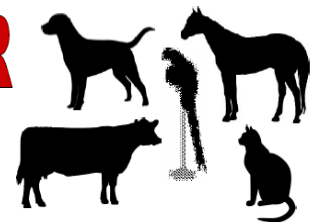
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MWF 4 BR 2 Bath home 2 +
car garage on 4.4 acres
Fully fenced elec gate Salt
Pool + Jetted tub Quiet St



MWF 3 BR 2 Bath home
FULL 2 BR APARTMENT
On a quiet side street. Fully
fenced 3 acres



MWF 3 BR 2 Bath home
Garage 1.6 acre 2 Stall Barn
Salt Pool Quiet street
Well Maintained

HOPING EVERYONE IN MWF HAS A HEALTHY HAPPY NEW YEAR

WORKED WITH 10 BUYERS & SELLERS IN MEADOW WOOD FARMS FOR SUCCESSFUL CLOSINGS IN 2019!



Membership Information

If you aren't a member, we would love for you to join us. The MWFPOA provides all kinds of services for your neighborhood (including this newsletter). Please use the form below to accompany your check.

Need to find out if you've paid? Contact Lisa Yanes at 291-0509 or email her at stokey@cfl.rr.com.

Your MWFPOA thanks you!

Please Join

MEADOW WOOD FARMS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Annual Dues Effective June 1, 2019, through May 2020)

Please send your check for \$55.00 with this form to:
Meadow Wood Farms Property Assoc., Inc., P.O. Box 771896, Ocala FL 34477

Please print to provide the information below :

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

YES **NO** Put my/our information in the directory.

YES **NO** Deliver my/our newsletter to my/our address.

(Otherwise, it is available on the website, which saves the Association printing and mailing costs.)

A directory is distributed to MWFPOA members at no charge. It may be purchased by non-members for \$5.00. Additional copies for members = \$2.00.

mwfpoa.com

*Photos always look
better in our online
edition.*

MEADOW WOOD FARMS
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOC.
P.O. BOX 77-1896
OCALA, FL 34477-1896



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —